

October 12, 2007

NEW FEDERAL INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE BACKS CTL PRODUCTION

An interagency federal task force comprised of senior administration officials and state governors recently released a strategic plan meant to dramatically increase the use of unconventional fuels, including coal to liquid (CTL) fuels, by permitting improved access to energy resources on public lands and streamlining permitting processes. The Task Force on Strategic Unconventional Fuels, created by the 2005 Energy Policy Act, forwarded its report to Congress on Oct. 8.

The task force, which includes the secretaries of Defense, Energy, the Interior and five governors, concluded that domestic production of CTL and other unconventional fuels could total approximately 7 million barrels per day by 2035. The report said "America's dependence on oil imports can be significantly reduced to the benefit of our economy, our security, and our standard of living" through the utilization of unconventional fuels.

The report calls on the federal government to assist the private sector with research and development projects that accelerate the development and use of these fuels and projects to further improve the environmental performance of these fuels. The report also backs establishing a fiscal regime to attract private development, as well as a new permitting system that will expedite industry development.

A copy of the report is available [here](#).